

Requirements for Forage and Biomass Planting (512) 2015 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Eligible lands: Crop, Pasture and Hay

All planned pasture must meet Prescribed Grazing Standard (e.g. tall fescue grazed no lower than 3").

Current stocking rate for the operation and documentation in the GRAZE Program (Forage Animal Balance software) must show 33% or less of the livestock requirement comes from supplemental feed (e.g. hay).

Cropland (existing land use):

Cropland conversion is eligible. All perennial seeding options can be planted for cropland conversion to pasture or hay land.

Pasture:

Cool Season Option:

Cool Season Grass and Legume Forage: Crop conversion only, (e.g. tall fescue, white clover and red clover)

Frost-Seeding or Overseeding Legumes: Desirable grass is 50 to 70%: Frost seed legumes in February or drill legumes in March. Payment does not include fertilizer but fertilizing according to soil test is required.

Warm Season Options: (20% of the total pasture acreage is eligible for Warm Season grass planting, not 20% of each option)

Warm Season, Introduced Forage (Seeded/Sprigging or Clippings improved bermudagrass)

Native Warm Season Grass: Single species of native grass (e. g. eastern gamagrass)

Native Warm Season Grass Mix: Four or more species mix (e.g. Big bluestem, Indiangrass, Little bluestem and Virginia wildrye)

Hay (existing land use): Hay land is only eligible for the establishment of NWSG.

Native Perennial Grasses: Single species of native grass e. g. eastern gamagrass

Native Perennial Warm Season Grasses: Four or more species mix (e.g Big bluestem, Indiangrass, Little bluestem and Switchgrass) Note: switchgrass stand may be impacted by imazapic herbicide.

All Mined Land: contact State Grazing Lands Specialist for specifications

**Warm and Cool Season Species, Seeding Rate, Planting Date and Applicable Landuse
(seeding early within the “Planting Date” is ideal)**

Warm Season Forage Options (Upland and Bottomland are eligible):			
Species	Rate/ac	Planting Date	Landuse
Bermudagrass	8 lb/ac	April 15 – July 1	Crop conversion or Pasture up to 20% of total pasture acres
Bermudagrass sprigs or clippings	24 cu. Ft./ac	April 15 – July 1	Crop conversion or Pasture up to 20% of total pasture acres
Native Warm Season Grass (NWSG) Any mix of the following grasses: Big bluestem, Indiangrass, Little bluestem plus optional 2 to 5 lb of Virginia wildrye	8 lb to 10 lb total PLS/ac NWSG + 2 to 5 lb/ac Va. Wildrye	March 1 – July 1	Crop conversion or Pasture or Hay up to 20% of grassland acres are eligible
Switchgrass	8 lb to 10 PLS/ac	March 1 – July 1	Crop conversion or Pasture or Hay up to 20% of grassland acres are eligible
Eastern gamagrass	10 lb to 12 lb PLS/ac	April 1 – July 1 December 15 – April 1 (dormant planting)	Crop conversion or Pasture or Hay up to 20% of grassland acres are eligible

Cool Season Forage Option (example):			
Species	Seeding Rate	Seeding Date	Landuse
Introduced Perennial Cool Season Grasses with legume: Tall Fescue White clover Red clover add Annual lespedeza (Feb 1 – April 15 only)	15 lb 2 lb 4 lb 8 lb on steeper thinner soils	February 1 – April 15 August 15 – Oct. 15	Crop conversion only
Frost Seeding or Overseeding Legumes: White clover Red clover Annual lespedeza (optional)	2 lb 4 lb 8 lb on steeper thinner soils	February for frost broadcasting seeding March drill legumes	Pasture which is limited to producers that have 8 paddocks per herd and a good history of managing prescribed grazing heights, closing gates. Stocking rate is such that hay feeding is typically 33% (4 months) or less per year. <i>Fertilizer is required but not included in payment.</i>

Note: In general due to switchgrass and eastern gamagrass not being tolerant of imazapic herbicide they are not planted in mix with other native grasses. If NWSG is planted, *there is no harvest or grazing for 2 years from date of establishment unless approved by Area Biologist or State Grazing Specialist.*

All Plantings will apply fertilizer according to a soil test less than 12 months old.

<http://soilplantandpest.utk.edu/publications/soilfertilizerpubs.htm> . Fertilizer code for native grass is NWSG.